

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1948.



INCORPORATING THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. G. W. TATE)

ASHINGTON :
J. WILKINSON,
HIGH MARKET.
1949.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I herewith present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the health and Sanitary circumstances of the Urban District in 1948.

On 5th July, 1948, the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation and, as far as your Council was concerned, the effect was to transfer certain of your former powers and responsibilities to other authorities. The immunisation of schoolchildren and all other duties in connection with the provision of ambulance services became the responsibility of the Northumberland County Council. The South-East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which your Council was a constituent authority, ceased to exist, and provision of hospital accommodation for the treatment of cases of infectious disease became the responsibility of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Regional Hospital Board, which acts as agent for the Minister of Health.

Payment of fees to general practitioners for notification of infectious disease is still the responsibility of your Council in the first instance, but all money expended is recoverable from the County Council provided the County Medical Officer has received a copy of each notification.

These are the main changes affecting this authority. Under the new Act, the County Council resolved to set up a new scheme of area administration, and for the purpose of this scheme the County was divided into eight areas. The Ashington Urban District was included with the Borough of Morpeth, the Urban District of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, and the Rural District of Morpeth, in the Central Area.

A Central Area Health Sub-Committee made up of representatives of the County Council and of each of the District Councils, plus two co-opted members, was established. Bedlingtonshire, which had formerly been a constituent authority in the No. 2 Medical Area, joined with the Borough of Blyth to form the East Area.

The County Council, with the concurrence of the District Councils, appointed your Medical Officer of Health to be Executive Medical Officer in the Central Area. I continued to be Medical Officer of Health for Bedlingtonshire, also, until the end of the year, but, in January, 1949, Dr. A. Donaldson took up duty as Executive Medical Officer for the East Area and Medical Officer of Health for Bedlingtonshire, which then ceased to be a member of the Joint Committee (Medical Officer of Health).

The Area Sub-Committee, subject to the authority of the County Health Committee, became responsible for the management of the ambulance service and the Domestic Help Service, measures relating to the Prevention of Illness and the Care and After Care of Sick Persons, Vaccination and Immunisation, measures relating to the Prevention of Infectious Disease, Health Education and the management of Health Centres and other premises vested in the Local Health Authority and used for health services.

In connection with the vital statistics of the Urban District, satisfactory features are the decline in the death rate and the still birth rate, and the fact that no deaths occurred from maternal or puerperal causes. There is, however, a regrettable rise in the infantile mortality rate and a marked decline in the birth rate.

The continued decline in the incidence of Diphtheria and the fact that for the second successive year this disease caused not a single death are matters for some satisfaction.

The housing shortage remains serious and the completion of only 76 houses during the year was somewhat disappointing.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by members of the Council, and my thanks for the assistance afforded me by the staffs of the Health and other departments of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. MCGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health,

Urban District of Ashington.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1948

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health	..	...	...	..	C. B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	
Sanitary Housing Meat	}	Inspector	..	...	...	G. W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R., San. I.
Sanitary Meat	}	Inspector (additional)	..	...	...	H. S. Wilson, M.S.I.A., M.R., San. I.
Offices of the M.O.H.	...	...	..	...	...	146, Station Road, Ashington. Telephone, Ashington 2287.
Offices of the Sanitary Inspector	...	..	...	...	...	Council Chambers, Ashington. Telephone, Ashington 3210.
Hospital for Infectious Diseases (transferred 5th July, 1948)	..	...	...	...	...	North Seaton Station, Ashington. Telephone, Ashington 2220

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres — 6,057.

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident population mid 1948 — 28,900.

Rateable Value — £120,068.

One Penny Rate produces £460.

No. of inhabited houses (end of 1948) — 7,737.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS:

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	490	232	258
Illegitimate ...	9	2	7
	<hr/> 499	<hr/> 234	<hr/> 265

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population — 17.27.

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	12	6	6
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 7

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births — 27.3.

DEATHS:	Total	Male	Female
	306	161	145

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population — 10.58.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0
No. 30 Other maternal causes	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	58.11
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	59.17
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	42
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	1

The Registrar General supplies the following:—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948

Causes	Male	Female
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	2
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of resp. system	8	4
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	0
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	0
9. Influenza	0	1
10. Measles	0	1
11. Acute Polio myel. and Polio-enceph	0	0
12. Acute infectious enceph.	0	0
13. Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph (M) uterus (F)	3	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	6
15. Cancer of Breast	0	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	19	7
17. Diabetes	0	1
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	18	20
19. Heart diseases	50	55
20. Other disorders of the circ. system	3	4
21. Bronchitis	11	3
22. Pneumonia	7	9
23. Other resp. dis.	2	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	0
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	0
26. Appendicitis	0	0
27. Other digve. dis.	5	0
28. Nephritis	3	1
29. Pner. & post abort. sepsis	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	0	0
31. Premature births	4	4
32. Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	3	4
33. Suicide	1	0
34. Road traffic accident	1	0
35. Other violent causes	6	3
36. All other causes	5	16
	161	145

Deaths of Infants under one year:—

	Male	Female
Legitimate	12	17

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON U.D.

	Number	Percentage of Total Deaths.
Diseases of the Heart	105	34.31
Diseases of the Circulatory system	45	14.7
Cancer	42	13.72
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	30	9.8
Dis. of early infancy and congenital malformations under 1 year	29	9.47
Tuberculosis (all forms)	14	4.57
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	12	3.92

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1948

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year was 29, the same number as in 1947. Since the birth rate fell considerably in 1948, the infantile mortality rate rose correspondingly, and at 58.1 per 1,000 live births was the highest since 1943.

The Registrar General's Table S.D.55 gives the Infantile Mortality Rate as follows:—

For England and Wales 34 deaths per 1,000 live births.

For 126 Great Towns 39 „ „ „

For 148 Smaller Towns (pop. 25,000 - 50,000) 32 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The rate for Ashington is thus greatly in excess of the average rate for towns of comparable size in England and Wales.

The following table shows the comparative mortality rate during the past eight years:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years ...	1	1	2	5	2	0	1	1
Infantile deaths under 1 year ...	30	23	42	24	27	30	29	29
Infantile Mortality ...	74.4	55.4	82.19	44.52	48.82	48.9	46.9	58.1

The following table gives details of the cause of death in the different age groups under 1 year:—

INFANTILE MORTALITY—1943

Cause of Death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under One year
Prematurity ...	10	0	0	1	11	0	0	0	0	11
Pneumonia ...	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	0	10
Hæm. Dis. of Newly born ...	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Congenital Abnormality ...	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gastro enteritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Prolonged labour ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bronchitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Otitis Media. ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL ...	14	0	0	2	16	4	5	4	0	29

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

These are now provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service. For the first ten months of the year the work was still carried out at the Newburn Laboratory, but in November, 1948, the staff moved to premises at the General Hospital, Newcastle. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below:—

Specimen sent in by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
C.C.T.O.	Sputa for Tubercle	52	250
General Practitioners	do	3	65
M.O.H.	Swabs for Diphtheria	0	2
General Practitioners	do	5	2
General Practitioners	Swabs for Hæm. Strep.	2	5

Ambulance Facilities.

Until 5th July, 1948, the arrangements remained unchanged, but with the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council became the authority responsible for providing this service. From 5th July until 31st December, 1948, the service continued to be run by the Ashington Hospital Committee, acting as agent for and being re-imbursed by the County Council.

Nursing In The Home.

With the introduction of the National Health Service Act, the Ashington and District Nursing Association ceased to exist and the County Council became the authority solely and directly responsible for the provision of this service. No changes were made in the actual nursing staff and there are employed in Ashington a Superintendent, 5 Midwives and one nurse doing general duties.

Hospitals.

The Ashington Hospital, which has 26 male and 14 female beds and 3 cots, was, until 5th July, 1948, a voluntary hospital supported largely by miners' subscriptions. On 5th July, this hospital passed under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, acting as agent for the Minister of Health.

The Isolation Hospital situated near North Seaton Station and leased to the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, also passed to the Regional Hospital Board on 5th July.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

A Chest Clinic, dealing mainly with cases of Tuberculosis, is held at the Elizabeth Craigs Memorial Clinic in Lintonville Terrace.

These premises, also, came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948. The Tuberculosis Officer, employed prior to 5th July by the Northumberland County Council, and after that date by the Hospital Board, attended twice weekly.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This service is provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre, South View, as follows:—

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Every Wednesday — morning and afternoon. Every Friday, except the last in the month — held morning and afternoon on the first and third Friday of each month, and on the fourth Friday when there are five Fridays in the month. Held in the morning only on the second Friday. A doctor is always in attendance.

Post-Natal Clinics.

Held monthly — on last Tuesday afternoon in the month.

Child Welfare Clinics.

Every Monday afternoon and every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Sun-Ray Clinics.

Every Monday morning and Thursday afternoon.

Toddlers' Clinics.

Every Tuesday afternoon, except the last Tuesday in the month.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

All day the last Friday in the month.

Ophthalmic Clinics.

On Saturday mornings at two-monthly intervals.

Dental Clinics.

All day, every weekday.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—The whole of the district obtains water from the Tynemouth Corporation supply. This has been chlorinated since 1942, and samples taken periodically from varying points in the district show it to be of the highest quality of drinking water. Appended are the results of the examinations carried out:—

Source				Date	Coli Aerogenes Test Organisms per 100 ml.
Town Supply	...	...	...	20-1-48	1
do	(Standpipe)	...	...	20-1-48	3
do	(do)	...	...	20-1-48	1
do	...	...	...	20-1-48	5
do	...	...	...	19-8-48	2
do	...	...	...	23-9-48	Nil
do	...	...	...	7-10-48	5
do	...	...	...	7-10-48	5

All houses in the district are supplied with water from public mains. There are altogether 7,737 houses with a population of 28,900, and there are 15 houses with a population of 77 supplied by three standpipes. This represents only 0.19 % of the total houses, and it is estimated that 85.98% have water laid on; 2.93% are supplied by taps in the backyard, and 10.88% by taps in the wash-house.

Drainage and Sewage.—North Seaton Road building site and the site for permanent prefabricated aluminium houses were sewered in readiness for the erection of dwellings. Discussions with owners and builders have taken place where alterations to existing drainage systems were found to be necessary.

Neither Woodhorn nor Sheepwash Village has satisfactory means of disposal of sewage, and it will be necessary for the council at no distant date to give consideration to the provision of sewage disposal schemes, even though little development is likely to take place at either village.

Rivers and Streams.—No action was taken under this heading.

Closet Accommodation.—There have been no conversions carried out during the period under review.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—Attempt was made to achieve the maximum amount of repair work, but with the restriction of supplies of building materials, with shortages varying from one material to another, not as much was achieved as was hoped for. Some improvement was noticed following the raising of the free limit for building licences from £10 to £100 in July, although shortages continued to be experienced from time to time. During the year, 301 building licences were issued, to the total value of £13,083. It is interesting to note that 290 building licences were issued up to the 1st July, and only 11 after that date to the year end.

Close co-operation exists between the Department and the builders, so that the maximum results are obtained by all concerned. Informal action to secure the carrying out of repairs is very thoroughly explored, and in many cases proves to be very successful.

Because of the increasing amount of work in the Department, application was made to the Minister of Health for his approval to the appointment of a second additional Sanitary Inspector and his approval was still awaited at the end of the year.

Following non-compliance with Statutory Notices, two property owners were summoned before the Magistrates to show cause why the nuisances had not been abated. In both cases orders were made for the work to be carried out. In one case the order not having been complied with, application was made to the Justices for daily penalties to be applied to secure compliance, and in both instances the time limit had not expired at the end of the year.

In two further instances following reports by the Police under Section 154, Public Health Act, 1936, that, while collecting rags, persons were delivering food to children under 14 years of age. In one case a caution was administered, and in the second case proceedings were taken and a penalty of £1 was imposed.

The following table summarises the notices served:—

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done.	Verbal or Written Notice	Complied with
To clear Choked Drain or Water Closet ...	126	126
To provide Ashbins ...	24	24
To repair Eaves, Gutters and Downspouts ...	33	30
To repair Sinks or Wastepipes ...	6	6
Defective or Leaky Roofs, Damp Walls etc. ...	51	48
Defective Fireplaces ...	38	40
Defective Outbuildings ...	36	34
Defective Water Closets ...	30	27
Defective Sashcords ...	20	17
Defective Wallplaster ...	38	30
Offensive Accumulations ...	Nil	Nil
Defective Foodstores ...	12	9
Defective Airgrates ...	3	3
Defective Ceilings ...	19	18

Swimming Baths and Pools.—(1) Institute Baths (baths, showers and pool) open to the public—members and non-members.

(2) The erection of pit-head baths at New Moor is nearing completion, and pit-head baths at Ashington Colliery were begun. There is little doubt that their benefit when in use will be considerable.

Appended are the results of examinations carried out on Swimming Bath Water:—

Source	Date	Coli Aerogenes Test Organisms per 100. ml.
Institute Swimming Baths	6.8.48	13
do.	19.8.48	Nil
do.	23.9.48	Nil

Schools.—All Schools have a main water supply and suitable sanitary arrangements.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.—The ventilation, sanitary accommodation and cleanliness of all places of public entertainment remained satisfactory during the year and no complaint was received respecting any building.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. (Infestation Order S.R. & O. 1943, No. 680).—The delegation of powers from the County Council under the above Act was again renewed during the year.

The policy of the Council in providing a de-ratisation service to the ratepayers without charge is undoubtedly a sound scheme. Experience has shown there is no attempt to conceal the presence or suspected presence of either rats or mice. Every possible source of infestation receives regular visits and treatment, with beneficial results. Elimination of wooden pig-styes and their substitution by brick erections proceeded steadily through the year and was continuing to receive proper attention at the end of the year.

Camping Sites.—There are no camping sites within the area.

Atmospheric Pollution.—Because there appeared to be still a shortage of chimney sweeps, and the habit of firing the chimneys was in no way diminished, the Council made a further request to the Minister of Health for the establishment of a Municipal Chimney Sweeping Service. This was declined on the grounds that the expenditure would be illegal and that the necessary powers could be conferred on the Council only by Parliament. Every opportunity is seized to bring the enormity of the offence of chimney-firing to the notice of the public, and this will continue to be done until the value of a smoke-free atmosphere is appreciated by those who pollute it.

Colliery Spoilbanks. — The same close liaison between H.M. Alkali Inspector and the Council's Sanitary Inspector was maintained during the year, and close contact also existed with the N.C.B. officials. The nett result of the year's work in this connection might be summed up by saying that the burning spoilbanks were kept under control. Occasionally, more fuming than was desirable was found, but as far as any Local Authority is entitled to take pride in these things this Council can be satisfied that all attempts to prevent the spoilbanks from creating a nuisance were reasonably successful. The problem of dealing with colliery spoil yet remains to be tackled. This must be done and a solution found, at no distant date, for the well-being of all mining communities, and the hope is again expressed that the National Coal Board will find it possible to direct research into use of this spoil and into other means of disposal of the waste.

Mosquitoes. — Work on this widespread problem was on similar lines to that of previous years. The draining of water areas was begun, and it is important to note that following the elimination of one water area immediately adjacent to dwelling-houses, the nuisance in the west end of the district diminished very considerably. The Blue Holes water area was sprayed regularly during the summer, as often as climatic conditions permitted, and this considerably eased the troubles in that area, although they were by no means eliminated. Because of continued working of the coal under several of the larger pit falls, drainage of the water therefrom was not found possible. The whole question was receiving consideration and was being closely watched at the end of the year.

Eradication of Vermin. —

(a) No. of Council-owned Premises found to be infested by Vermin — 1.
No. disinfested — 1.

(b) No. of other Premises found to be infested by Vermin — 8.
No. disinfested — 8.

For this work Zaldecide and D.D.T. were used.

Disinfestation is carried out by employees of the Local Authority. A charge covering cost of material and labour is made, according to the circumstances of the case, on the owner of the tenant, and advice is given on the avoidance of reinfestation.

Beetles. — Infestation by beetles is not an infrequent cause for complaint. Fifteen premises were dealt with for this.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Privies abolished ...	1	—	—	1
" repaired ...	—	—	—	—
Privy Ashpits abolished ...	1	—	—	1
" " roofed or repaired ...	—	—	—	—
Pail Closets abolished ...	—	—	—	—
Water Closets provided ...	—	—	—	—
" " repaired ...	—	38	—	38
Sanitary Bins provided ...	—	—	—	—
" " renewed ...	24	—	4	28
New Drains constructed ...	—	—	—	—
Drains repaired or reconstructed ...	125	1	—	126
Additional Gullies provided ...	—	—	—	—
Old Gullies replaced ...	—	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided ...	—	—	—	—
" Waste Pipes repaired ...	4	2	—	6
" " " trapped ...	—	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed ...	—	5	—	5

Sources closed or discontinued ...	Nil	Number of houses affected ...	Nil
New services provided ...	Nil	Number of houses affected ...	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT—Year ending December 31st, 1948.

District : ASHINGTON. Inspector : Mr. TATE.		No. of Ins- pections during year	No. of defects or contraven- tions of By-Laws	No. out- standing from previous year	TOTAL	No. renewed after letter or interview	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied thereafter	No. of Sanitary Notices served	Defects remedied thereafter	In progress or being dealt with	Legal Pro- ceedings
HOUSING												
Structural Defects (Summary of												
Sheet 11)		943	303	47	350	24	279	304	12	12	10	—
Defective Food Store		28	12	14	12	—	12	9	—	8	3	—
Dampness		154	58	—	72	7	51	48	—	—	9	—
Overcrowding		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuisances		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY												
Insufficient		149	13	—	13	8	5	5	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory												
DRAINAGE												
Insufficient		524	126	—	126	125	1	1	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory												
SANITARY CONVENIENCES												
Insufficient		173	32	7	39	—	32	38	—	—	1	—
Defective												
Shops, Food-stores, etc.		958	7	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops		162	4	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses		821	Government	Abattoir	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.		15	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades		179	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces		187	14	—	14	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals		58	9	—	9	9	—	—	4	4	9	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Recep.		125	224	4	28	24	4	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits improperly used		51	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations		50	8	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Petrol Stores		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		4577	612	72	684	232	384	405	24	24	23	—

FACTORIES ACT

There are, in the district, 124 factories and workshops. The following table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1948.

The "other premises" included in section 3 of the table are three building sites on which sanitary accommodation had to be provided.

There are no outworkers in the district.

1. — INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	124	134	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	0	0	0	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	6	0	0
Total ...	127	140		

2. — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	15	15	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2)	2	2	0	2	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	3	3	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	4	4	0	0	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	3	3	0	3	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	27	27		5	

† i.e. Electrical Stations [Section 103 (1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

SECTION D

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	51 (Permanent)	0	51
By other Bodies or Persons	18	7	25
			<u>76</u>

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses During the Year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	742
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2076
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	80

2. Remedy of Defects During the Year Without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	78
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers During the Year:—

For the Sub-sections A, C and D, Nil returns have been supplied.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	12
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

4. Number of Houses Permanently Discontinued as Dwellings and Not Included Above Nil

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

No. of Cowkeepers (registered) in the district	8
Approximate No. of Cows kept	242

Milk Supply. — 48 samples of Milk were taken and submitted for examination as set out below:—

Thirteen pasteurised samples were submited to the Phosphatase Test with the appended results:

29.9 units — 1 sample	1.4 units — 1 sample
2.2 „ — 1 „	1.3 „ — 2 samples
1.9 „ — 1 „	1.1 „ — 4 „
1.5 „ — 2 samples	1.0 unit — 1 sample

Of 35 samples Raw, T.T. and Pasteurised Milks submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newbarn:

27 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.	2 decolourised under 3½ hours.
1 decolourised under 5 hours.	1 decolourised under 3 hours.
2 decolourised under 4½ hours.	1 decolourised under 1 hour.
1 decolourised under 4 hours.	

Of the 8 samples which failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, 4 were produced within the Urban District, 2 decolourised in 4½ hours, 1 in 3½ hours and 1 in 1 hour.

Thirty-one samples were submitted to the Test for Tuberculosis, 29 were reported as showing Tuberculosis NOT FOUND; 4 tests were not carried out, and 2 were inconclusive.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.—15 samples of Ice Cream were taken and submitted to the prescribed tests. These were returned in the following grades:

Grade 1 ...	10	Grade 3 ...	Nil
Grade 2 ...	2	Grade 4 ...	3

Food-preparing Premises.—Inspection of all premises, where food is prepared, for registration under the Food and Drugs Act, was proceeded with. Unfortunately, the amount of time which could be devoted to this was not great and the work was largely spasmodic. This was one of the factors which resulted in the Council applying to the Minister for additional staff. It should be noted, however, that every attempt was made to ensure that all premises maintained a standard laid down by the Department.

Meat and Other Foods.—The Ministry of Food Slaughtering Depot for Ashington and Newbiggin is located in the premises belonging to the Ashington Industrial Co-operative Society.

The numbers of animals slaughtered during the year under review are as follows:—

Cattle (excluding Cows) 1635; Cows 148; Calves 483; Sheep and Lambs 6187; Swine 192.

The amount of Meat condemned, surrendered and destroyed is set out in the accompanying table, with the reason for such action. This Meat is sent away for processing for the extraction of fats, etc

MEAT, ORGANS, ETC., CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED

For Tuberculosis.

BOVINE:—

Lungs	270
Heads and Tongues	68
Livers	53
Mesenteries	9
Back Skirts	13
Hearts	1
Spleens	5
Tripes	4
Guts	3
Beef	51½ st.

Carcases (including 7 Casualties,
1 "Owner's Risk" and 2 T.B.

Tests) 14 (Total weight 481½ stones)

SWINE:—

Heads	1
--------------	---

For Other Defined Diseases.

BOVINE:—

Lungs	Parasites 51, Pneumonia 6; Actinomycosis 7; Pleurisy 1; Abscesses 4; Melanosis 2.
Livers	Cirrhosis (whole) 413, (part) 795; Echinococcus Cysts 23; Cavernous Angioma 28; Peritonitis 1; Abscesses 18.
Heads and Tongues	Actinomycosis 43; Fibroma 1; Abscesses 1.
Tongues	Actinomycosis 1; Glossitis 1.
Udders	Mastitis 102.
Tripes	Inflammation 5; Abscesses 2; Peritonitis 1.
Gut	Inflammation 5; Johnes Disease 4; Abscesses 2.
Kidneys	Hydronephrosis 1.
Spleens	Abscesses 1; Peritonitis 1.
Back Skirts	Abscesses 1; Pleurisy 1.
Hearts	Pericarditis 3; Abscesses 2.
Beef	Abscesses 95 lbs.; Bruising 33½ stones; Lipomata 19 lbs.; Bonetaint 53½ stones.
Carcases (including 11 casualties and 3 "Owner's Risk")	Septicæmia 5; Pyrexia and Emaciation 1; Dropsy and Emaciation 2; Johnes Disease and Emaciation 2; Septic Pericarditis 1; Pathological Emaciation 2; Emaciation and illsetting 1. (Total weight 418½ stones).
Calves (including 2 Casualties)	Septicæmia 2; Immaturity 1. (Total weight 9 stones).

SHEEP:—

Livers	Cirrhosis 14; Parasites 9; Bacterial Necrosis 1.
Heads	Parasites 1; Bruising 1; Abscesses 2.
Plucks	Pneumonia 31; Parasites 28; Abscesses 2; Bacterial Necrosis 2.
Tripes	Inflammation 4; Abscesses 1.
Lungs	Parasites 1; Pneumonia 6.
Gut	Inflammation 3.
Targets	Adhesions 6.
Mutton	Bruising 45 lbs.; Abscesses 77 lbs.; Rheumatoid Arthritis 3 lbs.; Dog-worrying 19 lbs.; Moulds 28 lbs.
Carcases (of which 24 were Casualties)	Septicæmia 10; Dropsy and Emaciation 9; Moribund 6; Emaciation 6; Septic Pneumonia 2; Pyrexia and Illsetting 1; Septic Mastitis 1; Oedema 4; Illsetting 6; Toxæmia 1; Decomposition 1; Septic Metritis 2; Emaciation and Illsetting 7. (Total Weight 188 stones).

SWINE:—

Plucks	Pneumonia 2.
Carcases (of which three were Casualties)	Swine Erysipelas 2; Moribund 1; Illsetting 1. (Total weight 14½ stones).

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1948

	Cattle exclu. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed } Number Inspected }	1635	148	483	6187	192
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole Carcases Condemned	4	10	3	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	316	98	—	103	2
Percentage of Number affected with disease other than T.B.	19.51	72.97	0.62	2.75	3.13
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole Carcases Condemned	10	4	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	210	114	—	—	1
Percentage of Number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.46	79.76	—	—	0.52

Other Foods. — The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed:—

Corned Beef	703½ lbs.	Soups	89 tins
Tinned Meats	106½ lbs.	Milk	696 tins
" "	74 tins	Tomatoes	29 tins
Fish	145 tins	Butter	13½ lbs.
" "	20 lbs.	Black Pudding	54 lbs.
Vegetables	379 tins	Barley Flakes	40 lbs.
Jam	26 tins	Cheese	3 tins
Syrup	6 tins	Cake	31 lbs.
Fruit	353 lbs.	Oatmeal	7 11 s.
" and Fruit Juice	126 tins	Scopolina	63 1 kts.
"	7 boxes	Flour	33 lbs.
		Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	50 tins
		"	2 jars
		"	232 lbs.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided throughout the year at the Isolation Hospital, Ashington.

On 5th July, 1948, this hospital passed from the control of the South-East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, which on that date ceased to exist, and became the responsibility of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board, acting as agent for the Minister of Health.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

Diseases	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Pneumonia ...	3	2	1	1	1	5	—	—	5	3	9	3	34*	1	16
Scarlet Fever...	—	2	7	5	7	28	22	1	3	—	—	—	75	34	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	8†	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Measles ...	23	74	86	98	76	189	2	—	2	—	—	—	553‡	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	15	16	18	25	22	26	—	—	1	—	1	—	124	—	2

* 1 Age unknown. † 1 Age unknown. ‡ 3 Age unknown.

Zymotic Death Rate.—The term includes deaths from the following seven diseases only: Whooping Cough, Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid), Enteritis (Diarrhoea under 2 years).

Disease	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population
Diphtheria ...	0	0.0
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0.0
Smallpox ...	0	0.0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0.0
Whooping Cough ...	2	0.069
Measles ...	1	0.034
Enteritis ...	1	0.034

Diphtheria.—The number of cases of this disease again declined, from 9 in 1947 to 5 in 1948, and for the second successive year no death from Diphtheria was recorded. This constitutes a record for, at least, the past 18 years. Of the five notified cases, three were known to have been immunised.

The following table shows the notifications and deaths in the past 18 years:—

Year	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cases	12	11	15	196	115	56	32	175	179	8	5	12	18	34	197	76	9	5
Deaths	1	3	2	3	4	—	3	5	4	—	1	2	2	2	4	3	—	—

There is good reason to believe that the recent years of intensive immunisation are beginning to bear fruit, and to hope that, by continued and unrelenting effort, Diphtheria epidemics may become a thing of the past.

In this connection it is of interest to record certain figures published in 1948 by the Ministry of Health for the country as a whole.

"The provisional figures for deaths from Diphtheria in 1947 was 245, compared with an average of about 2,800 deaths annually in the ten-year period 1931-1940. For the sixth successive year, therefore, the number of deaths was the lowest yet recorded."

Totals of deaths and original notifications from 1940 to 1947 are as follows:—

DIPHTHERIA

Year	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Cases	46,281	50,797	41,404	34,662	29,949	25,246	18,283	10,469
Deaths	2,480	2,641	1,827	1,371	934	722	472	245

The number of cases in 1947 is also the lowest ever recorded. For the ten-year period 1931-1940 the average number of original notifications was about 55,300. The total for 1947 will, therefore, be about 45,000 below that average.

Provisional figures indicate that original notifications and deaths both show further reductions in 1948, with a probable total of 8,019 notifications and 155 deaths.

There can be no doubt that the remarkable and steady fall in the incidence of Diphtheria is due to the extensive immunisation of the child population since 1941. There must, however, be no relaxation of effort if these results are to be maintained.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Visits to all schools in the district were paid between November, 1947, and March, 1948.

Altogether, during 1948 there were treated for the first time, at the schools, at the Welfare Centre and by private doctors, 368 pre-school children and 167 school children. In addition, 319 children received reinforcing injections.

It was estimated at 31.12.48 that a total of 1,362 pre-school and 3,942 school children had completed a course of treatment at some time.

Pre-school children immunised	...	...	...	...	55.60%
School children immunised	...	...	...	...	98.99%
Proportion of child population immunised	...	...	...	...	82.45%

These figures are reasonably satisfactory, but further improvement in the percentage of pre-school children is desirable.

Scarlet Fever.—The incidence of this disease again rose in 1948 and 75 cases were notified, but the illness continued to be generally of a mild character and no deaths occurred. Not since 1935 has there been a death, in the area, attributed to Scarlet Fever.

Measles.—This disease did not, as might have been expected after the epidemic of 1947, show a reduced incidence. On the contrary, the number of cases rose to 553, compared with 305 in 1947. One death was attributed to this cause.

Whooping Cough.—Following on the small number of cases notified in 1947, Whooping Cough became prevalent in 1948. There were 124 cases, and two deaths were recorded.

Enteric Fevers.—No case occurred during the year.

Infantile Paralysis.—No case occurred during the year.

The following table, which uses figures obtained from the Registrar General's returns S.D. 55, shows the comparative figures of notifications of certain infectious diseases in England and Wales, the 148 smaller towns and Ashington:—

Disease	Cases Notified in the District		Ashington	Rate per 1,000 Population.		England & Wales
				148 Smaller Towns		
Scarlet Fever	75	...	2.59	1.82	...	1.73
Diphtheria	5	...	0.17	0.09	...	0.08
Typhoid Fever	—	...	—	0.01	...	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	—	...	—	0.01	...	0.01
Erysipelas	8	...	0.28	0.21	...	0.21
Pneumonia	34	...	1.18	0.60	...	0.73
Measles	553	...	19.1	8.84	...	9.34
Whooping Cough	124	...	4.29	3.31	...	3.42
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5	...	0.17	0.02	...	0.03

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non.		Resp.		Non.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1-5 Years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	6	7	—	1	—	2	1	—
25-35 years	5	—	—	—	3	1	1	0
35-45 years	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
45-55 years	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
55-65 years	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16	8	2	3	8	4	2	—

Death Rate from Tuberculosis.

In Ashington—0.43 per 1,000 of the population.

In 148 Smaller Towns (25,000-50,000 —0.46 per 1,000 of the population.

In England and Wales—0.51 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths in notified cases 11

„ „ non-notified cases 3

Total deaths from Tuberculosis 14

CANCER MORTALITY

	MALES			FEMALES					Total
	45-	65-	Total	30-	35-	40-	45-	65-	
Duodenum	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bladder	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	1
Stomach	2	3	5	—	—	—	3	2	5
Prostate	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchogenic	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larynx	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rectum	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
Colon	2	4	6	—	—	—	2	1	3
Cervix	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Jaw	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gall Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Oesophagus	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ovary	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Naso-Pharynx	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liver	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	17	27	1	1	—	9	4	15

S.D. 55.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH—1948 VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

				England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin. County
				Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population			
BIRTHS—							
Live Births	...	...	...	17.9(a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	...	...	...	0.42(a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
DEATHS—							
All Causes	...	...	...	10.8(a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	...	...	...	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—							
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro spinal Fever	...	...	...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
				Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
DEATHS—							
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	...	34(l)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
				Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—							
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	...	...	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34(c)
Maternal Mortality in England and Wales							
				Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		Rates per million women aged 15—44	
140 Abortion with Sepsis	...	...	...	0.11		9	
141 Abortion without Sepsis	...	...	...	0.05		4	
147 Puerperal infections	...	...	...	0.13			
142-146, 148-150 Other maternal causes	...	...	...	0.73			

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.
alone was 0.61.

(b) Per 1,000 related births

(c) In London Puerperal Fever

